

Memorandum:

TO: Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Karen Wexell, RN, MSN, Acudetox Specialist, HNB-BC, Certified Poison Information Specialist,

DATE: March 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 353

Good Afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Karen Wexell and I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 353 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE.

I am a registered nurse working as a certified Poison Information Specialist(CSPI) at the CT Poison Control Center, a Holistic Nurse as a wellness coach and I am adjunct faculty at UCONN School of Nursing CEIN/ BS program. I have been a NADA Acudetox Specialist (ADS) for a year having sought this research based, non-pharmacological adjunctive therapy for use to support clients and students with stress and addiction related conditions. The rise in opioid related exposures and deaths in CT must be addressed and non-pharmacological interventions supported. Acudetox has been proven safe and effective in recovery from opioid dependence, since this original purpose the role of Acudetox has expanded to other mental health support services with well documented success. NADA Acudetox protocol has been provided to individuals and groups to aid recovery after disasters such as hurricanes, for sleep disorders and anxiety and on college campuses and post-traumatic stress to name just a few.

I am in support of section 2h of Senate Bill 353. I am respectfully requesting that the current acupuncture detox law be clarified and expanded to assure that the NADA protocol can benefit all our at-risk populations. Currently in CT, despite my professional credentials and training, I only place magnetic seeds using the NADA protocol because of the limitations of the current law. CT lead the way with the original legislation and I am asking you do the same again by requesting to allow NADA-trained, licensed and/or certified health care providers : RN, APRN, PA, Licensed Addiction Counselors, Family therapists and Social Workers to use the NADA protocol in their independent private practices without supervision. In addition, it is our proposal that a NADA registered trainer may provide indirect supervision to non-licensed ADS performing community auricular acupuncture. The expansion of the current restrictions of an outdated law is essential. The current opioid crisis and rise in stress related disorders can benefit from expansion of Acudetox services to a variety of settings.

Thank you for examining this very important issue helping to expand the use of Acudetox to our much needed mental health services and community supports in CT.

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Wexell RN, MSN Certified Poison Information Special, Certified Holistic Nurse, Acudetox Specialist